



Pool Safety Laws

New York State Building Code regulations require that all residential swimming pools installed, constructed or substantially modified after December 14, 2006 be equipped with an approved pool alarm.

- All pools must be surrounded by a fence that is at least four feet high with a self-closing and self-latching gate. The latch must be inside the pool area and at least 40 inches above the ground. The gate should be locked when the pool is not in use.
- Lifesaving devices and a first aid kit must be kept near all pools.

Contact your local municipality for additional Code and Zoning Requirements. Local laws regarding fencing and other safety requirements for swimming pools may be more (comprehensive) restrictive than requirements for swimming pools contained in New York State's Uniform Code.

Learn CPR

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) saves lives. If you perform CPR on a drowning victim while waiting for an ambulance to arrive, you might save a life or greatly improve the outcome for that victim.

*Contact Suffolk County Department of Health Services at **631-853-5800** for dates and locations of classes that will enable you to become certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).*



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Commissioner
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Prevent Drowning! Be...



**“Be Pool Safe”
Poster Contest Winner:
Keara Shea**

Teacher: Ms. Lea D’Amaro
Birchwood Intermediate school
Melville, NY

County of Suffolk
Department of Health Services

Did You Know?

- Ten people die from drowning each day in the United States.
- Many children drown in backyard swimming pools and in small kiddie pools.
- Children between ages one and four are most at risk for drowning.
- Most young children who drown have been out of a caretaker's sight for less than five minutes.
- Three out of ten deaths in children aged one to four are caused by drowning.
- For every child who dies from drowning, another four are rushed to the emergency room for near drowning.
- When victims nearly drown, their brains are deprived of oxygen, which can cause damage. Brain damage can affect a person's ability to function.



Tips to Prevent Drowning

- Children can drown in just a few inches of water. Children who drown, often slip under the water without making any noise. Be watchful all of the time.
- A child younger than five years of age should **always** be within arm's reach when in or near water.



- Teach older children to always swim with a buddy, never swim alone and never push or jump on others.
- Never leave children of any age alone in or near the water. A tragedy can occur within seconds. If you must leave, even for a second, take your children with you.
- When the pool is not in use, take toys out of the pool to remove temptation.
- Empty your pool cover.
- Keep a first aid kit stocked and available near the pool.
- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 and how to get help in an emergency. Make sure children know their address.
- Learn to swim. It is the best thing anyone can do to stay safe and keep their children safe in and around water
- Obtain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

What To Do if You See Someone Drowning

- If the water is shallow, pull the victim to safety.

In deep water:

- If a victim is within reaching distance, assist him/her by extending something long, such as a rope, a pole or a noodle.
- If a victim is within towing distance, throw him a floatable object, such as a life jacket or a ring buoy attached to a line.
- If you must enter the water to assist someone, take a flotation device large enough to carry two people safely. Keep the device between you and the person in distress. Even a child can put an adult at risk in deep water.
- Call 9-1-1. It is a good idea to keep a cordless phone in the pool area in case of emergency. Once the victim is out of the water, if he is not breathing, perform CPR. Do so only if you are certified.



Other Dangers

Thunder? Lightning? Get out of the pool to avoid being struck.